

Chapter 1. Overview of the United States Air Force and the National Park Service

NATIONAL PARK MILESTONES

- 1872 Inspired by the images created by Henry Jackson and Edward Moran, Congress designates a vast region of the Yellowstone area as a national park, setting an international precedent for the preservation of national treasures.
- 1906 The Antiquities Act provides for the protection of antiquities on federal lands and authorizes the President to declare national monuments for that purpose.
- 1916 The National Park Service Organic Act establishes the agency to conserve the resources and values of federal parks, monuments, and reservations and to provide for their enjoyment by present and future generations.
- 1935 The Historic Sites Act results in the National Park Service assuming responsibility for national leadership in the field of historic preservation.
- 1936 The Park, Parkways, and Recreational Programs Act results in the National Park Service assuming responsibility for park, parkway, and recreational area programs.
- 1955-1966 The Mission 66 program authorizes and provides funds for extensive improvements in parks to rehabilitate aging facilities and to accommodate the increased use following World War II.
- 1970 The General Authorities Act recognizes that the National Park System has grown to include a great variety of natural, historic, and recreation areas and declares that all units will be protected equally in accordance with the NPS Organic Act.
- 1978 The Redwoods National Park Act strengthens NPS authorities to preserve and protect National Park System resources.
- 1980 The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act doubles the acreage of the National Park System.

EARLY AMERICAN AVIATION MILESTONES

- 1903 At Kitty Hawk, NC, the Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, achieve the world's first manned flight.
- 1907 The Aeronautical Division of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, forerunner of the U.S. Air Force, is established.
- 1909 Land for the first Signal Corps airfield is leased at College Park, MD.
- 1914 The Aviation Section of the Signal Corps is created by Congress as the nation enters World War I.
- 1918 The U.S. Army Air Service is organized in recognition of the importance of air power in any future war.
- 1918 Dr. Robert H. Goddard demonstrates tube-launched solid-propellant rockets at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD.
- 1926 The U.S. Army Air Corps is organized.
- 1941 The U.S. Army Air Forces is established as an equal to the Army Ground Forces as the nation enters World War II.
- 1941 The Civil Air Patrol is established.
- 1944 Allied pilots fly approximately 15,000 sorties on D-Day, providing a preview of the decisive and effective use of air power in the ultimate resolution of the war.
- 1945 VJ Day signifies the end of World War II.
- 1947 The U.S. Air Force is established as a service equal to the Army and Navy.

National Security Act of 1947.

In the National Security Act Congress declares its intent to provide:

a comprehensive program for the future security of the United States; to provide for the establishment of integrated policies and procedures for the departments, agencies and functions of the government relating to the national security; to provide three military departments for the operation and administration of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, with their assigned combat and service components; to provide for their authoritative coordination and unified direction under civilian control but not to merge them; and to provide for the effective strategic direction and operation of the armed forces and for their operation under unified control and for their integration into an efficient team of land, naval and air forces.

Comprehensive information about the U.S. Air Force is available on the Internet at www.af.mil.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

■ Mission

The National Security Act of 1947 established the United States Air Force (USAF) with the mission to defend the United States and to protect its interests through aerospace power. The new service joined the Army and Navy with the larger mission to

- Preserve and defend national peace and security
- Support national policies
- Implement national objectives
- Overcome any nation responsible for acts aggressive to the United States

Title 10. As chartered by Congress in Title 10, the USAF mission is subject to constant oversight. Title 10 states that the Air Force “shall be organized, trained and equipped primarily for prompt and sustained offensive and defensive air operations.” Any change in overall readiness must be reported within twenty-four hours. The Secretary of Defense is required to maintain a Readiness Reporting System to inform Congress of the status of monthly and annual goals.

With this level of oversight, the Air Force must focus much of its resources on organizing, training, and equipping itself for action. Even in peacetime, the Air Force conducts “wartime” training. In order to provide the land and air-space necessary to conduct the training, Congress periodically sets aside space for military use. The procedures for establishment of special use airspace were derived from the Federal Aviation Act of 1958.

■ History

The evolution of the Air Force began with the formation of the Aeronautical Division of the Army Signal Corps, before World War I. While it was clear that air power had potential, its ability to affect the outcome of war had not been proven. During the early 1900s, technological development of the airplane progressed slowly in the United States. Meanwhile, European nations were arming themselves for war and exploring advancements in observation and pursuit aircraft.

When America became involved in World War I, its air role was initially very small, but by war's end, 11,000 Americans were flying. One USAF officer, Lieutenant Colonel Billy Mitchell, emerged as one of the founding fathers of an independent air arm. He had honed his aviation skills and learned strategy and tactics from Britain's independent air force. In 1918, he translated his knowledge into action as he took command as Air Marshall of the American Expeditionary Forces.

Mitchell became an intense proponent for air power. He predicted in his book, *Our Air Force*,

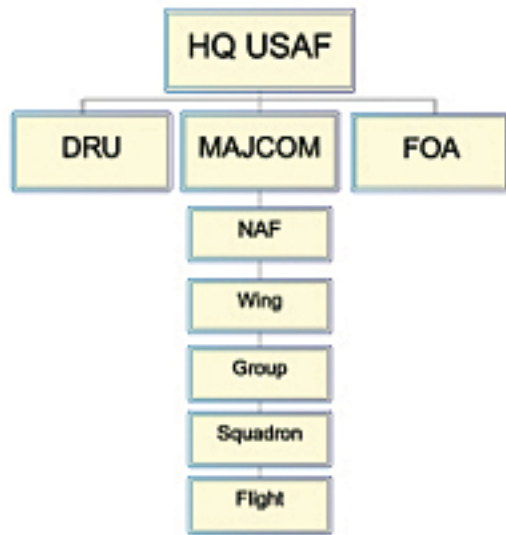
The first battles of any future war will be air battles. The nation winning them is practically certain to win the whole war because the victorious air service will be able to operate and increase without hindrance.

American air power came of age during World War II, when it proved decisive and effective. On June 20, 1941, the Department of War created the Army Air Forces (AAF) as its aviation element and shortly thereafter made it equal to the Army Ground Forces. The Air Corps remained as one of the Army's combat arms, like the infantry. AAF units conducted a wide range of air operations over every theater of battle.

Based on its achievements in air superiority, the Air Force would become the first line of defense in a post-war world. General Henry “Hap” Arnold, in his capacity as the commanding General of the Army Air Forces, made a separate Air Force his highest priority.

On September 18, 1947, the National Security Act established the Air Force as a separate service, equal to the Army and Navy. Shortly after taking office as the first Secretary of the Air Force, W. Stuart Symington, summarized the importance of the event:

In this day when a powerful counterattack is America's only real answer to aggression, there can be no question that we need the world's first Air Force. It is only through the global, flashing mobility of the Air Force that we can hold our counterattack poised . . . we feel, with deep conviction, that the destiny of the United States rests on the continued development of our Air Force.



Lineage of the United States Air Force

Aeronautical Division,
U.S. Army Signal Corps
1 August 1907 – 18 July 1914

Aviation Section,
U.S. Army Signal Corps
18 July 1914 – 20 May 1918

Division of Military
Aeronautics
20 May 1918 – 24 May 1918

U.S. Army Air Service
24 May 1918 – 2 July 1926

U.S. Army Air Corps
2 July 1926 – 20 June 1941

U.S. Army Air Forces
20 June 1941 – 18 Sept. 1947

U.S. Air Force
18 September 1947 –

■ Organization

Headquarters United States Air Force (HQ USAF). The senior headquarters of the Air Force consists of two major entities: the Secretariat (including the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary's principal staff), and the Air Staff, headed by the Air Force Chief of Staff (CSAF).

Direct Reporting Unit (DRU). DRUs are directly subordinate to the CSAF and perform a mission that does not fit into any of the MAJCOMs. A DRU has many of the same administrative and organizational responsibilities as a MAJCOM.

Field Operating Agency (FOA). FOAs are directly subordinate to an HQ USAF functional manager. A FOA performs field activities beyond the scope of any of the major commands. The activities are specialized or associated with an Air Force-wide mission and do not include functions performed in management headquarters, unless specifically directed by a DOD authority.

Major Command (MAJCOM). A major subdivision of the Air Force, directly subordinate to Headquarters, MAJCOMs are organized on a functional basis in the United States and on a geographical basis overseas. The MAJCOMs organize, administer, train, and equip subordinate elements for assigned missions. The subordinate elements in descending order are numbered air forces, wings, groups, squadrons, and flights.

Numbered Air Force (NAF). A level of command directly under a MAJCOM, NAFs are tactical echelons that provide operational leadership

and supervision. NAFs are not management headquarters and do not have complete functional staffs. Many NAFs are responsible for MAJCOM operations in a specific geographic region or theater of operations. A NAF is assigned subordinate units, such as wings, groups, and squadrons.

Wing. A level of command below the NAF or higher HQ USAF, a wing has a distinct mission with significant scope. It is responsible for maintaining the installation or has several squadrons in more than one dependent group. A wing consists of 1,000 to 5,000 airmen.

Group. A level of command below the wing (like the NAF) is a tactical echelon without significant staff support. A group usually has two or more subordinate units. A group has approximately 500 to 2,000 airmen.

Squadron. The basic unit in the Air Force, a squadron may be either a mission unit, such as an operational flying squadron, or a functional unit, such as a civil engineer, security forces, or transportation squadron. Squadrons vary in size according to responsibility. A squadron has approximately 50 to 750 airmen.

Flight. If internal subdivision is required, squadrons may be divided into flights.

■ Air Force Reserve, National Guard, and Civilians

Today's Air Force is a total force of approximately 700,000 active duty, reserve, guard, and civilian personnel. Approximately 355,000 active duty members serve side by side with 160,000 civilian personnel. Approximately 75,000 reservists and 110,000 Air National Guardsmen serve part-time and are ready to be called to active duty.

Air Force Reserve (AFR). The Air Force Reserve contributes daily to the USAF mission and is actively involved in operations around the world. Its primary charge is readiness, achieved by providing the nation's leaders with trained units ready for duty at all times. The Reserve provides roughly 10 percent of the Air Force's available manpower, yet more than 30 percent of all USAF missions are accomplished through the efforts of reservists.

Headquartered at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia, the Air Force Reserve is charged with monitoring and overseeing the day-to-day activities of more than 300 flying and support units. Each of the Reserve's 36 wings is

For information about a particular Western Pacific USAF installation, please see chapter 5 and/or refer to the Air Force's website at www.af.mil.

charged with a core mission that is accomplished through the collaboration of a variety of specifically tasked squadrons.

Air National Guard (ANG). The Air National Guard has total responsibility for air defense of the entire United States. Made up of more than 110,000 officers and enlisted people serving in 88 flying units and 280 independent support units, the ANG provides almost half of the active duty Air Force's tactical airlift support, combat communications functions, aeromedical evacuations, and aerial refueling. The ANG has both federal and state missions, and every guardsman holds membership in the National Guard of his or her state as well as the National Guard of the United States.

The federal mission of the ANG is to maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization during war and to provide assistance during national emergencies. During peacetime, the combat-ready units and support units are assigned to most USAF MAJCOMs to carry out missions compatible with training, mobilization readiness, and contingency operations such as Operation Joint Endeavor Guard in Bosnia and Operation Southern Watch in Kuwait.

When ANG units are not mobilized or under federal control, they report to the governor of their respective state or territory (Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands) or to the commanding general of the District of Columbia National Guard. Each of the 54 ANG organizations is supervised by the adjutant general of the state or territory. Under state laws, the ANG provides for the protection of life and property and preserves the peace, order, and public safety. Many of these missions are accomplished through emergency relief support during natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and forest fires.

Civilians. The Air Force employs more than 160,000 civilians throughout the Pentagon and every installation in the country. These civilians work alongside their uniformed colleagues at every level of the Air Force. Many positions can be held by either a military or a civilian employee, so it is not unusual to find a "Mr." or "Ms." at an installation instead of a rank designation.

Individual Installations. A USAF base may house one or more wings with several groups and squadrons assigned. The standard operational wing structure is four dependent groups (operations, support, logistics, and medical), with related functions and disciplines aligned under the appropriate group. Bases will normally have one wing as the host unit and they will have the following points of contact (POCs):

Wing Commander. The wing commander has authority and responsibility over every aspect of the wing. In order to ensure combat capability the wing commander delegates responsibilities for carrying out specific parts of the wing mission to the wing staff.

Public Affairs (PA): A key function of the wing staff, public affairs builds and maintains support for the Air Force through effective communication. The PA office at the wing directs all public affairs and internal information activities, acts as a representative of the commander to news media and the public, and provides public affairs counsel and services to the commander. The PA staff are the focal point for interaction with the public and are a key POC for questions.

Operations Group. The operations group operates and maintains primary mission equipment.

Airspace Management: The airspace manager resides in the operations group. The duty of the airspace manager is outlined in the "Air Force Airspace Representatives" section.

Support Group. The support group provides base support and services.

Civil Engineering (CE): The CE office maintains a healthy and safe environment on the base. Included in their responsibilities of general base maintenance and engineering of base facilities is an office or representative that deals with environmental management and related issues on base. The POC for environmental management is in the CE office.

Logistics Group. The logistics group supports the primary mission with materiel, resources, and data.

Medical Group. The medical group provides medical support and service to the wing.



An airman from the Pennsylvania National Guard stands in front of an EC-130. (USAF photo)

U.S. Air Force Rank Insignia

Officer



Second Lieutenant
(O-1)



First Lieutenant
(O-2)



Captain
(O-3)



Major
(O-4)



Lieutenant Colonel
(O-5)



Colonel
(O-6)



Brigadier General
(O-7)



Major General
(O-8)



Lieutenant General
(O-9)



General
(O-10)

Enlisted

(No
Insignia)
Airman
Basic
(E-1)



Airman
(E-2)



Airman
First Class
(E-3)



Senior
Airman
(E-4)



Staff
Sergeant
(E-5)



Technical
Sergeant
(E-6)



Master
Sergeant
(E-7)



Senior Master
Sergeant
(E-8)



Chief Master
Sergeant
(E-9)



Chief Master
Sergeant of the
Air Force

The Federal Land- and Water-Managing Agencies

The National Park Service is one of several federal land- and water-managing agencies, which are spread across several departments:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
• U.S. Forest Service

U.S. Department of Commerce
• National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
National Marine Fisheries Service

U.S. Department of the Interior
• Bureau of Land Management
• Bureau of Reclamation
• National Park Service
• U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Comprehensive information about the National Park Service is available on the Internet at **www.nps.gov**.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

■ Mission

The mission of the National Park Service is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service also cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

In carrying out this mission, the Park Service manages a system that currently contains 387 units and encompasses more than 83 million acres. These national parks represent America's great scenic and natural places, physical remnants of the nation's cultural heritage, and repositories of outstanding recreation opportunities. In 2001, about 286 million visitors from 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and nearly every nation of the world passed through national park gates, a figure that has grown steadily since World War II.

■ The Role of Parks in American Society

Facts and figures about acreage, visitation, and the growth of the Park System do not tell the whole story of the special role that parks have played in American society since Yellowstone, the first park, was established in 1872.

Wallace Stegner said it simply and directly in 1983: "National Parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect our best rather than our worst." Parklands are the source of inspiration for artists, authors, songwriters, and millions of campfire storytellers, and they have played a central role in the development of the American conservation ethic. Politicians, following public opinion, have added parks to the National Park System in every Congress and every administration for the past 50 years to recognize and honor the nation's history and cultural heritage and to

set aside lands with the highest levels of managed protection. Industry has embraced the national parks in product marketing and in direct park support as a demonstration of good corporate citizenship. Hollywood and Madison Avenue reinforce the images of national parks in print and on film, billboards, buses, and banners. Every year, the National Park Service processes more than 4,000 requests for permits to film in national parks.

Photographs from national parks are included in nearly every family photo album. Like all great ideas, national parks and what they represent have taken hold in American society and are reflected in virtually every corner of American life.

The unique place parks hold in the national conscience weighs heavily on the National Park Service and guides the sense of mission felt deeply by the Service's employees. As the nation has come to recognize the importance of air, land, water, and species protection, the agency's own focus and expression of its mission has evolved. Parks are increasingly being observed and managed as places of refuge for animals, plants, and visitors as urban pressures increase, and as reservoirs of opportunity for scientific research.

■ History

In 1872, Congress set aside more than two million acres of spectacular and valuable land as Yellowstone National Park and directed the Secretary of the Interior to "provide for the preservation, from injury or spoliation, of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities or wonders . . . in their natural condition." The idea of a national park was an American invention of historic consequences, marking the beginning of a worldwide movement that has subsequently spread to more than 100 countries and resulted in the protection of 1,200 national parks and conservation preserves. However, when Yellowstone National Park was established, no concept or plan existed upon which to build a system of such parks. The concept of a National Park System embracing a wide variety of natural and cultural resources evolved slowly over the years, often through the consolidation of federal land management responsibilities.

Following the precedent set by the creation of Yellowstone, by 1900, five additional national parks or monuments had been created (Casa Grande in Arizona; Sequoia, Yosemite, and General Grant in California; and Mount Rainier in Washington). As interest grew in preserving

Paint Pot at
Yellowstone
National Park



the great scenic wonders of the American West, efforts were also under way to protect the sites and structures associated with early Native American culture, particularly in the Southwest. The Antiquities Act of 1906 authorized the President “to declare by public proclamation (as national monuments) historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest.” Devils Tower in Wyoming was the first national monument established under the Antiquities Act. Other monuments established shortly thereafter were Montezuma Castle and Petrified Forest in Arizona and El Morro in New Mexico.

In 1916, Congress created the National Park Service in the Department of the Interior to “promote and regulate the use of the federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations.” Parks and other such units that had previously been administered and operated by the U. S. Army were transferred to the National Park Service.

The number and diversity of parks within the National Park System grew significantly in 1933, when nearly 50 historical sites were transferred by executive order to the National Park Service from the several previous administering agencies, most of them in the Departments of War and Agriculture. At one stroke of the President’s pen, the number of areas in the National Park System was almost doubled. Included were 11 national military parks, 10 battlefield sites, 12 national cemeteries, and 10 national monuments.

Further major expansions of the National Park System resulted from the Historic Sites Act of 1935, the Park, Parkway and Recreation Study Act of 1936, the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980.

■ Organization

The National Park Service is organized in a tiered fashion with overall management and guidance coming from its central Washington Office through seven regional offices to park superintendents. Superintendents are granted broad discretionary power for independent management of the parks, and they are generally in charge of all staff and all aspects of operations, planning, and funding. However, major political, policy, or regulatory decisions or decisions that have implications beyond the unit boundary are frequently made at the regional or Washington Office level.

The National Park Service employs about 21,000 permanent and seasonal employees and numerous volunteers.

Washington Office (WASO). The Director of the National Park Service is selected by the President and confirmed by Congress. The Director has two deputy directors, one who supervises the overall operations of the National Park System and the other who supervises the NPS partnership programs and external affairs, including coordination with the military and other agencies, such as the FAA.

Five associate directors report to the Director and deputies. The associate directors supervise functional programs (currently grouped under the headings of administration, park operations and education, professional services, cultural resource stewardship and partnerships, and natural resource stewardship and science). However, the Washington Office is in the process of being reorganized, and some of these functional programs will be modified and supplemented. The reorganization should be completed in the fall of 2002. The associate directors and their staffs support the parks and regions within their respective areas of responsibility.

Technical expertise and products are available to the parks from several national support offices, including the Soundscapes Program Center (advice, guidance, and technical support to parks for purposes of characterizing and preserving park soundscapes), the Harpers Ferry Center (interpretive planning, publications, and audiovisual media to support visitor programs), the Denver Service Center (major planning, design, engineering, and construction contracting services), the National Center for Recreation and Conservation (national rivers and trails programs), the Natural Resources Program Center (assistance in natural resource information and management), and the National Center for Preservation, Technology, and Training (National Historic Register programs and assistance for cultural resource preservation).

Regional Offices. The seven regions of the National Park Service are Alaska, Pacific West, Intermountain, Midwest, Southeast, Northeast, and National Capital (see map on page 10). The regional offices are supervised by regional directors, who have line authority from the Director of the National Park Service to direct the operation of the parks within their purview. The regional offices are organized to meet the particular needs of the parks within their regions. One to three support offices (SOs) associated with

For more information about a particular National Park System unit, please see chapter 5 and/or refer to the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov.

each regional office provide technical assistance to the parks in support of their planning/compliance, resource management, visitor services, and administrative activities.

Park Units. The units of the National Park System have various designations that include, but are not limited to, national parks, historical parks, monuments, historic sites, military parks, battlefields, recreation areas, lakeshores, seashores, and memorials. They vary in size from more than 13 million acres at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in Alaska to memorials and other sites of an acre or less. Each of these units represents some nationally significant aspect of

our country's natural or cultural heritage. In 1970, Congress elaborated on the 1916 National Park Service Organic Act to declare that all units of the system have equal legal standing. All of the units are generically referred to as parks.

Each unit is managed by a superintendent. At the larger parks, an assistant superintendent and several division chiefs assist the superintendent. Park staffs usually include protection/law enforcement rangers, natural and cultural resource management specialists, maintenance personnel, visitor services and interpretive specialists, and administrative staff.

National Park Service Regions



U.S. Air Force Airspace and Range Council Regions

